

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

## RUMORED CHANGE IN THE CABINET.

## General Banks to Take Charge of the Navy Department.

## Departure of the Relief Commissioners for Richmond.

## THE UNION CAMPS BURIED IN SNOW.

## WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1862.

## RUMORED CHANGES.

## General Banks is still in the city, and rumor busily

## THE FINANCIAL MEASURES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

## The system of finance recommended by the Secretary

## of the Treasury, and adopted by the Committee of Ways

## and Means, grows in favor continually. Many who were

## inclined to oppose it, simply because they did not fully

## understand it, are now warm advocates of its adoption.

## The system is now being introduced, and it is not merely

## a temporary expedient to raise the wind, but a perfect

## system to sustain the public credit for all time.

## DEPARTURE OF THE RELIEF COMMISSIONERS FOR

## RICHMOND.

## The Commissioners to visit the Union prisoners in the

## hands of the rebels—Ex-Governor Fish, of New York,

## and Bishop Ames—have concluded their arrangements,

## and started this afternoon upon their errand of mercy.

## It is hardly possible that they will be allowed to proceed.

## A strong appeal was made to-day by a number of mem-

## bers of Congress to induce the Secretary of War to add

## General Banks to his commission. Mr. Stanton acknowl-

## ed that his recent experience in a rebel prison would

## render his services as one of the committee very valuable,

## and offered to include him in the appointment if he

## would divert himself of his official capacity as a member

## of Congress; but he briefly but plainly explained to the

## applicants the propriety of adding to this commission

## any officer of the government, as it was not intended to

## be an official visit, but a purely philanthropic one.

## THE FIRM CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION.

## The recent speech of Mr. Greeley is understood here to

## have been the opening of the Fremont campaign against

## the administration, but the complete annihilation he ex-

## perienced from an unexpected quarter has rather intimid-

## ated the conspirators.

## MOVEMENTS OF GENERAL FREMONT.

## General Fremont is still quietly domiciled in Washington.

## The charges against him and the requests he has made to

## be court-martialed have not, so far as can be ascertained,

## been definitely acted upon by the government, and

## therefore it is not known what course will be pursued

## toward that gentleman.

## BUSINESS OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

## The various executive departments were to-day

## thronged by Senators and members of Congress. The

## plan of setting aside one day in each week for these in-

## terviews is well received, both by members of Congress

## and to the heads of departments, and greatly

## facilitates business, and tends to economize time.

## The rapidity with which the new Secretary of War dispatches

## business is a subject of general comment. He permits

## no long interview, nor whispered conferences, but re-

## ceives all courteously, briefly inquires their business, and

## as briefly disposes of each one, turning at once to

## another. All are treated alike, and all are expected to

## speak out without hesitation or concealment.

## THE ALLOTMENT COMMISSIONERS FOR NEW YORK

## REGIMENTS.

## Messrs. W. R. Dodge, Jr., and Theodore B. Brown, two

## of the Allotment Commissioners appointed by the Presi-

## dent to visit the various New York regiments in the field,

## and effect arrangements by which volunteers can regu-

## larly and safely send allotments of their pay to their fam-

## ilies or friends, yesterday visited the Thirty-seventh,

## Thirty-eighth and Fortieth New York regiments. The-

## odore Roosevelt, Esq., the third Commissioner, is now

## confined in New York by the sickness, contracted in the

## discharge of his duties. The Commissioners have been

## kindly received in all the regiments. Most of the soldiers

## send the principal portion of their pay home to their

## families.

## GEN. LANE IN THE SLAVE TRADE.

## It is stated upon good authority that the Committee on

## the Conduct of the War have taken the testimony of one

## witness, to the effect that Gen. James Lane purchased

## several slaves, giving in payment for them orders on the

## United States government. The slaves were taken, as

## the orders set forth, from loyal men. The prices ranged

## from \$300 to \$1,200 each. The orders were presented to

## the Quartermaster of Gen. Hunter's division. The latter

## refused to pay.

## GENERAL LANE AND HIS REPORTED MOVEMENTS.

## General Lane, who was bound South so far, is reported to

## be en route back to Washington, having been overruled

## by his superior officer, Major General Hunter, who

## order appeared in the Herald of yesterday. In the

## mean time General Hunter, if properly supplied with

## means to go forward, as he undoubtedly will, be

## commanding the expedition in person, unless a new depart-

## ment is created, with its headquarters at Cairo, in which

## event General Hunter will be detailed to the command of

## that post. Should such a change be made, some experi-

## enced army officer will command the expedition from

## Kansas, if it moves at all, about which there is now some

## doubt.

## HEAVY SNOW STORM IN VIRGINIA.

## The snow across the river was this morning from four

## to six inches deep. A good many regiments have had

## their hands full of shoveling away the snow and digging

## drains to prevent their camps overflowing. The

## visitation of this storm the roads will be made more im-

## passable, and the possibility of any movement be further

## delayed.

## THE LOWER POTOMAC.

## There has been no arrival, and consequently no news

## from the Potomac flotilla to-day.

## The steamer S. Ralph, in coming up from Budd's Ferry,

## came in collision with the King Philip, going down from

## the Navy Yard, and had a narrow escape, with but slight

## damage. The pilot of the steamer Ralph steered to the

## left instead of the right, which caused the accident.

## THE POTOMAC MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

## The States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey are, by an

## order issued to-day, added to the limits of the army of

## the Potomac.

## THE PAY OF SOLDIERS WHILE PRISONERS OF WAR.

## The Secretary of War directs that the officers and

## soldiers of the United States, who are or may be prisoners

## of war, shall, during their imprisonment, be considered

## entitled to receive the same pay as if they were doing

## active duty.

## ILLNESS OF CAPTAIN MOTT.

## Captain Mott has been obliged, on account of ill health,

## to accept for a temporary leave of absence. Anxious

## labor in training recruits attached to his battery, and a

## severe cold caught in a recent reconnaissance extending

## through the night, have unfitted him for duty.

## ARTILLERY PRACTICE.

## Heavy, rapid and continuous firing, heard this fore-

## noon across the river, led to a rumor that a battle was

## in progress. The cannonading was occasioned by some new

## experiments in artillery practice at Fort Ethan Allen.

## THE OFFICERS OF THE NEW YORK TWENTY-FIFTH

## REGIMENT.

## Lieutenant Colonel Schuyler, of the Twenty-fifth New

## York Volunteers, formerly commanded by Colonel Ker-

## rigan, has made terrible slaughter among the officers of

## the regiment since he has been in command. Of the original

## officers under Kerigan twenty-three have been allowed to

## remain. There are now few regiments across of courage

## and efficiency on the field of battle.

## THE VAN ALLEN CAVALRY.

## An independent company of New Jersey cavalry has

## been added to the Van Allen cavalry regiment. The

## Major of the third battalion has not yet been appointed.

## There are a large number of applicants for the position.

## SOLDIERS ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.

## Herbert S. Barlow, of Company F, Massachusetts

## first regiment, was shot yesterday, at Budd's ferry, by

## the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of a cor-

## poral, who was examining his number, not knowing

## it was loaded. The ball struck Barlow in the breast, kill-

## ing him instantly. He was nineteen years old, the only

## son of his mother, a widow, living in Brooklyn, Mass.

## The funeral expenses of young Barlow are borne by his

## company, the National Guards of Boston. They have

## also forwarded \$150 dollars to his mother, and voted to

## pay her thirteen dollars per month while they remain

## in the service.

## John Breiden, of the Second regiment, Excelsior Brigade,

## was shot by a corporal on the 28th ult., and instantly

## killed. The killing was reported an accident, but the

## Colonel of the regiment pronounced it a murder. Breiden

## belonged to New York City.

## SOME OF THE VICES IN THE ARMY—NEED OF RE-

## FORMATION.

## Many of the regiments in the army of the Potomac

## having been recently paid off, much intoxication has

## been manifested among the soldiers. Officers and privates

## have been suddenly awakened to the realization of the

## fact that they have some important business to transact

## in town. Washington being within a dozen miles of

## any of the encampments, those who have the slightest

## pretext for coming here think nothing of the journey.

## In some instances an opportunity to leave camp is regar-

## ded very much in the same light as a boy regards a holiday

## at school. In others, however, it is pleasing to notice, the

## reverse is true. When Captain Potter, Brigadier General

## James's Adjutant, returned to camp from Washington,

## where he had been on a twenty-four hours' leave of ab-

## sence, he almost asserted that he never wished to go

## to Washington again. He said he was painfully anxious

## all the time he was away lest something might occur re-

## quiring his personal attention. That is the sort of

## officers—men with a controlling sense of duty—who are re-

## quired throughout the service. Quartermasters and

## commissionaries are among those whose duties necessarily call

## them frequently to the city. On the left of the line

## Alexandria is a convenient place of resort for those

## who want a frolic. Within the last few days

## many soldiers have been seen there, and the streets

## of Alexandria and on the roads leading out to the

## encampments. A few mornings ago soldiers rolled out

## of camp were found to be away from one regiment with

## four men of another. They had stolen out of camp, and

## probably most of them had gone to Alexandria. General

## Wm. R. Montgomery, the Provost Marshal there, with

## Colonel McLean's Eighty-eighth Pennsylvania regiment,

## has been endeavoring to suppress the drunkenness and

## disorder which have recently characterized that town. A

## considerable quantity of liquor has been destroyed, by

## order of the Provost Marshal, the owners having failed

## to comply with a notice previously given to remove it

## from the town. In other words, the military authorities

## are endeavoring to suppress the drunkenness and

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